

## Message Text

SECRET

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10

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-03 NSCE-00 NSC-05 INR-05

PRS-01 INRE-00 /036 W

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O 281039Z FEB 76 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 393

DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 1477

LIMDIS

FOR SECRETARY SIMON FROM AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.) IS

SUBJECT: THE ISRAELI SCENE

1. I ASSUME YOU WERE BRIEFED BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON ON THE SITUATION HERE, BUT IT OCCURRED TO ME IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO UPDATE YOU ON WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING WHILE YOU HAVE BEEN ON THE ROAD.

2. MAIN FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN RECENT DAYS HAS BEEN ON THE CABINET'S FEBRUARY 22 DECISION TO EXPLORE TOGETHER WITH US THE PROSPECT FOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE ARAB STATES BASED ON THE "TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF WAR." LOCAL REACTION HAS BEEN QUITE NEGATIVE, WITH A NUMBER OF MINISTERS REPORTEDLY PUT OUT THAT RABIN WAITED TWO WEEKS AFTER HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON TO BRING THIS MATTER TO THE CABINET. THE RIGHT WING INEVITABLY HAS BEEN DEPICTING THE CABINET DECISION AS A CAVE-IN TO U.S. DEMANDS FOR MOVEMENT AND DIRE PREDICTIONS ARE BEING MADE THAT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE IN ERODING ISRAEL'S HOLD ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WITHOUT GETTING ANY TANGIBLE QUID PRO QUO IN RETURN FROM THE ARABS. THE ISRAELI MODERATES, LED BY ABBA EBAN, HAVE ALSO JUMPED ON

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"THE TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF WAR" FORMULA, HOLDING THAT

RABIN HAS MADE A GRAVE MISTAKE IN DEPARTING FROM WHAT HAD HERETOFORE BEEN THE ISRAELI POSITION THAT FINAL OR NEAR-FINAL TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE IN RETURN FOR OVERALL PEACE AGREEMENTS.

3. CRITICISM OF RABIN CONTINUES UNABATED, WITH THE PRESS HAVING A FIELD DAY IN CRITICISING BOTH THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES AS WELL AS HIS HANDLING OF CABINET AND PARTY AFFAIRS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT RABIN'S DOMESTIC POSITION HAS WEAKENED IN RECENT WEEKS AS A RESULT OF PRESS INDISCRETIONS, HIS HANDLING OF ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, AND "END OF WAR" FORMULA. BUT THE SPECULATION ABOUT HIS IMMINENT POLITICAL DEMISE IS EXAGGERATED, AND IN MY VIEW THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN THE OFFING. PERES TOLD ME THIS WEEK THAT THE SPECULATION ABOUT HIS PLANNING TO HEAD AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED. MOREOVER, THE RULING LABOR PARTY IS IN NO MOOD OR CONDITION FOR A NEW INTERNAL SHOWDOWN. MY JUDGMENT IS THAT RABIN WILL GO ON LEADING THE COUNTRY FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE. AN INTERNAL SHOWDOWN, IF IT TAKES PLACE, PROBABLY WILL ONLY COME WITH THE NEXT ELECTION, NOW SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1977.

4. ALL THE ABOVE IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION SO THAT YOU WILL NOT BE SURPRISED OF WAHT YOU MAY SEE OR HEAR DURING YOUR SHORT STAY. WARM REGARDS.  
TOON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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